

*The Parable of the Talented
Servants*
(Matthew 25:14-30)

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The Parable of the Talented Servants Matt 25:14-30

As a child, when I would hear my preacher mention this parable of the Talents, I would begin to review all the talented people I knew. Tommy was a talented singer, Darrell was a talented piano player, Riley was a talented guitar player. I knew some other from school that were talented, Wesley was the fastest on the playground, Mitchell could spit farther than anyone in class and Ronald could do that thing with his eye lids and gross everyone out. But we know from reading that this talent was a measure of money to the servant. But I did find it interesting to note that as talents in this parable represent God-given abilities, and man's ^{top} most powerful God-given ability.

I. The Assignment upon the Servant-

As the scene opens we find a master traveling into a far country and leaving his possessions in the hands of his servants and assignments are placed on them.

A. The Reason for the Assignment ^{vs 14}

The reason this man has the audacity to place the assignments upon them is that they are under his ownership. Servant = Double = slave. These servants were owned by the master. They were his "own servants" To illustrate: At work one day and the owner of your companies competitor from across the street come over and started telling you what to do. You would tell him to buzz off. But if you are company owner

started ordering you around. / This was a legitimate assignment! Do you realize that if you are a ^{By Blood of Christ} ~~born~~ ^{an orphan} ~~again~~ child of God, bought off the auction block of sin & Satan, He has every right to place demands

B. The Responsibility of the Assignment ^{vs 15}

This master placed his Goods into their hands. Note that these 8 talents handed out, were not owned by the servants. These belonged to the master, and they were unevenly yet graciously given to each servant. Each servant had a responsibility. Some greater and some smaller but all had one. In like manner, we have not all been gifted the same gifts, but God has gifted us all for his glory. You may not be a preacher or a teacher, you may be behind the scenes ~~unseen~~ by others but you have an assigned task to fulfill for the function of the body of Christ. Don't get a splen. I can't see it, don't know where it is...

II. The Arrival of the Sovereign - At the end of vs. 15 "took his journey" But in vs 19, despite the fact that it has been a long time the Sovereign of the servants returned. What an applicable truth concerning

A. His Arrival is a Marvelous Promise

Notice that this Lord over these servants didn't tell them directly he was coming back, yet it was simply understood that his journey, however so long it would take will one day come to an end and they would see him again. But we, we have been given explicit

...god given ability being his mental powers; it became common in the English language to refer to a mans mental abilities as his talents. But whether yours be monetary or mental talents, it is imperative that all our talents and abilities be used for God's glory. I want you to notice some things in this parable of the talented servants that teach us concerning our service to our master.

1) ...don't know where it is exactly, but I know if it cease to function I'd be in a heap of trouble! Paul used the very illustration in the book of 1 Corinthians to illustrate the varying gifts given in the church.

2) ...concerning our master the Lord Jesus who is going to be arriving to claim his own in a moment in the twinkling of an eye.

1) **John 14:3**: And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. **Acts 1:11** Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven. **1 Thessalonians 4:16-17** For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

2)...should have no less a sense of urgency when it comes to the labor that our master the Lord Jesus Christ has assigned us to do!

3)...tell the servants that the Master is home and that they must report to him immediately. Can you imagine the reaction of the 5 and 2 talent servants as smiles come across their face: "The master is home!" Can you imagine how the color went out of the face of the one talent servant as he heard the words "master is home and he wants to talk to you."

Promise of his return: In 14:3, Acts 1:11, 1 Thes 4:13-18
Our master will be arriving upon the eastern sky to claim his bride. Take heart servant! Laboring in the field, profiting your master, expanding his Kingdom, Look up! Look up! Lift up your head, for your redemption draweth nigh!

B. His Arrival is a Motivating Principal

This assignment in light of his unannounced arrival is a driving motivation to labor intensely for a good return on their master's money. I remember when I was a kid coming home from school, despite the fact that Dad had assigned us the tasks of folding clothes, loading Dishwasher, straightening up the living room, + cleaning the kitchen, my sister + I would flop down in front of the TV and soon drift off into a TV trance. But it wasn't long before the clock was noticed and we would suddenly jump up and in a flurry of activity we would say 'Dad's gonna be here any minute! We've got to get hasty!' We as servants of God should ②

III. The Accounting of the Service

Can you imagine as the Lord arrives at his manor, all the servants out and about in the market. He sends some boys, messenger boys to tell the servants ③

A. A Hopeful Scene of Commendation

The 5 + the 2 talent servants took what they had been given, and made increase of it. Not an exorbitant amount, just basic

doubled the amount given and for this he was commended as being good + faithful. They were given an increase in responsibility, they were also given access ^{what might have been} to the welcome home party thrown for the master. Notice the words to the 2 talent servant, VS 22-23. There is no less joy ⁽¹⁾ responsibility or commendation given! One author You may not be a 5 talent christian that can preach or teach or administrate, but if you will be faithful with what you have you will be rewarded

B. A Horrifying Scene of Condemnation
Now we come to the last servant VS 24-30. Note what the servant said. This man didn't like the fact that he was being lorded over. He was afraid that if a return was gained on the ^{money} that the master would take it or if it was lost the master would harshly treat the servant. He is slandering the character of the Master, when the original money was his all along! Master sees right thru it: Wicked and selfish, lazy. He refused to give to the Master the sovereign position He deserved. VS 30 Ought to put the fear of God in you. Is this a saved or lost man? VS 14 says "his own servants" His own by creation ⁽³⁾ or redemption.

IV. Closing - I heard of an old negro spiritual that says: There's a King and a Captain high, And he's coming by + by, And Hell find me hoeing cotton when he comes. There's a man they thrust aside who was ⁽⁴⁾

1) ...one author wrote: There will doubtless be different capacities for the sharing in the joy of our Lord, but every one will enjoy to the full.

2) ...you will be rewarded with no less. Spurgeon : He giveth them rewards, not according to the greatness of the goods with which they have been entrusted, but according to their fidelity there unto, and he that hath been faithful to the least shall be as much rewarded, as he that hath been faithful in much.

3)...creation or redemption. In one sense I can say creation, there for this servant represents a lost man. A man that rebels against God, slanders the name of God, and excuses his behavior before God. And really, if someone is genuinely saved, they naturally want to serve. But on the other hand, I've known folks that profess salvation in the strongest terms and yet never hit a lick at a snake, refuse to give, oppose going forward for the cause of Christ. Remember what 1 Corinthians 3:15 says in the context of the judgment Seat of Christ: 1 Corinthians 3:15 If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire. Suffer loss = injure, damage, cast away...

4)...who was tortured till he died. And He'll find me hoeing cotton when he comes. When he comes, when he comes, He'll be crowned by saints and angels when he comes. They'll be shoutin' out hosanna's to the man that they denied, and I'll kneel down in my cotton when he comes.

D. A Powerful Rendering of Judgment